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Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00095

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: PAO
INFO: DCM ECON POL AMB

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ADCM: HOLSINWINDECKE
DRAFTED: PA: AHOSHAN
CLEARED: APAO: DEDGINTON

VZCZCADI300
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7571
INFO RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0869
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0907
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000095

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON PASS TO MOC, ALSO FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)

SUBJECT: UAE SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: YEAR END EXPECTATIONS FOR
THE ARABS

¶1. SUMMARY: REPORTS AND OP-EDS IN ARABIC DAILIES IN THE UAE INDICATED THAT THE PLIGHT OF THE ARAB PEOPLE IS ONE OF THEIR OWN MAKING, ATTRIBUTING IT TO THE LACK OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS, TOTALITARIANISM AND BAD GOVERNANCE. ONE OP-ED ANTICIPATED THAT THE PLIGHT OF ARABS WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE DURING THE SECOND TERM OF PRESIDENT BUSH. ANOTHER PIECE EXPECTED THE ARAB WORLD TO HAVE MORE ILLITERATE, UNEMPLOYED AND POVERTY STRICKEN PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2020. END SUMMARY.

¶2. SALAHEDDIN HAFEZ WROTE IN THE SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" (CIRCULATION 85,000) 01/03:

"THE YEAR 2004 WAS A YEAR OF GREAT FAILURE IN THE ARAB WORLD. IT WAS A YEAR OF BLOODSHED AND KILLING FROM IRAQ TO SUDAN AND FROM PALESTINE TO SOMALIA. IT WAS ALSO A YEAR OF FAILURE WHERE THE ARAB NATION ACHIEVED NO DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS AND FINDS ITSELF FURTHER AWAY FROM ITS DESIRED REFORMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS THAN IT WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.. THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF THE YEAR 2004 IS THAT AMERICA HAS RISEN SUPREME UNDER THE EXTREME POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT BUSH. ALONG WITH A SQUADRON OF RIGHT WING HAWKS WHO HAVE AN APPETITE FOR KILLING IN THE NAME OF GOD."

"IF WE WANT TO SUM UP THE PAST YEAR, WE CAN SEE FIVE SIGNALS FROM THE U.S.: ONE, A TENDENCY TO USE EXCESSIVE FORCE TO SUBJUGATE NATIONS AND PEOPLE, NOT ONLY IN SUDAN, IRAQ AND PALESTINE, BUT MAYBE IN SYRIA, IRAN AND LEBANON. TWO, AN INCREASE IN U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, PROVIDING AN UMBRELLA FOR ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICIES AGAINST THE ARABS. THREE, A DISDAIN FOR A STRONG UN ROLE IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND AN ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE THAT ROLE IN FAVOR OF A STRONGER U.S. ONE. FOUR, THE LAUNCHING OF RELIGIOUS MISSIONARIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, CONTRARY TO OLD AMERICAN SECULAR VALUES, LINKED TO CURRENT U.S. POLICIES DESIGNED TO ENLIGHTEN PEOPLE WITH A "HEAVENLY ORDER". FIVE, THE RESTRICTING OF CIVIL AND ORDINARY FREEDOMS, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AMERICA, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF COMBATING TERRORISM CONTRARY TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S CALLS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM AND REFORMS."

13. COMMENTING ON DELIBERATIONS AT THE ARAB STRATEGIC FORUM, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN DUBAI DECEMBER, 2004, UAE NATIONAL DR. ABDULKHALEQ ABDULLAH WROTE IN AL-KHALEEJ (CIRCULATION 85,000) 12/28:

".. IN THE YEAR 2020 THERE WILL BE 400 MILLION ARABS, MOST OF WHOM WILL BE POOR AND ILLITERATE, WITH YOUTH THAT ARE JOBLESS, ANGRY AND INCLINED TOWARDS EXTREMISM. IN THE YEAR 2020 THE NUMBER OF ILLITERATE ARABS WILL BE 130 MILLION AND THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO LIVE UNDER THE POVERTY LINE WILL BE 110 MILLION. BY 2020, WE WILL ALSO HAVE 100 MILLION UNEMPLOYED, LEADING A MORE VIOLENT ARAB WORLD. WHAT CAN WE DO REGARDING ALL OF THIS? IF AUTHORITATIVE REGIMES AND THE ABSENCE OF DEMOCRACY CONTINUE TO BE THE NORM, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE ARAB WORLD WILL WORSEN. THEREFORE, IF ARABS WANT TO REACH THE YEAR 2020 IN A BETTER SHAPE, WITH MORE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, THEY MUST END TOTALITARIANISM, CANCEL THE MONOPOLY OF POWER AND RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM. FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE WE WILL NEED FURTHER PARTICIPATION, ENHANCED DEMOCRACY AND AN INJECTION OF POLITICAL FREEDOM."

14. DR. ALI AL-TARRAH WROTE IN "AL-ITTIHAD" (CIRCULATION 65,000) 12/29:

".ARAB CRISES ARE OLD AND INTERRELATED. THE MOST PROMINENT IS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT THAT USED UP MOST OF OUR POTENTIAL AND PUSHED US INTO MARGINAL CONFLICTS THAT DIVERTED US FROM VITAL ISSUES. IT IS ALSO REMARKABLE HOW THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT GAVE CERTAIN ARAB GOVERNMENTS THE JUSTIFICATION TO POSTPONE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. AFTER THE 1967 WAR, WE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO LIBERATING THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES AND CAME UP WITH THE PLO, WHICH LED US INTO ENDLESS CONFLICT DUE TO ITS INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLES AND CONTINUOUS DEFEATS. THE SPIRIT OF REVENGE HAS BECOME A MOTIVE OF OUR BEHAVIOR AND THE AVERAGE ARAB MAN HAS BECOME SO DESPERATE THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT ANYTHING POSITIVE, EVEN IF IT WAS BROUGHT BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF."

15. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "ARABS ARE A MELANCHOLIC NATION", MUHAMMAD AL-HAMMADI WROTE IN "AL-ITTIHAD" ON THE SAME DAY:

"TWO DAYS AND WE WILL ENTER THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM BUT WE ARE LOST, RELISHING IN GLORIES OF THE PAST AND FEELING SORRY FOR OUR DEFEATS, NOT THINKING OF HOW TO RESHAPE OUR FUTURE. LET'S BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES FOR ONCE AND ADMIT THAT MOST ARAB PEOPLE DO NOT TRUST THEIR GOVERNMENTS. ARABS LOOK AT INTELLECTUALS WITH AN EYE OF SUSPICION, BUT NEVER QUESTION WHETHER THOSE IN OFFICE ARE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE. THEY LOOK AT THE FUTURE THROUGH BLACK GLASS AND THUS THEY VIEW THE FUTURE AS BLACK. MANY ARABS HAVE BEGUN TO VIEW THEIR ARAB IDENTITY AS SHAMEFUL. THIS FEELING IS NATURAL IN LIGHT OF BAD GOVERNMENTS TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES INTO WORSE ONES AND SIMPLE DEFEATS BECOMING LARGER ONES. THE AVERAGE ARAB HAS A LACK OF FREEDOM, AND SUFFERS WHEN HE WATCHES OTHER PEOPLE LIVE AND EXPRESS THEIR OPINION FREELY. MOST ARABS BELIEVE IN CONSPIRACY THEORIES THAT HAVE NESTED IN THEIR MINDS. THEY BELIEVE THAT THOSE IN THE EAST AND THE WEST ARE TARGETING US, AND ATTRIBUTE EVERY CRISIS TO AN OUTSIDE AGITATOR. ALL OF THIS SHOWS THAT THE ARAB NATION IS A MELANCHOLY NATION IN NEED OF A SPEEDY RECOVERY IF IT WANTS TO BECOME A MEANINGFUL PART OF THE WORLD. THE FIRST STEP OF THE PROCESS IS TO ADMIT WE ARE A DEFEATED NATION AND THEN FORGET OUR DEFEATS. WE HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WE ARE NOT THE BEST NATION AND LOOK AHEAD TO BECOME A NATION THAT CAN WORK AND LIVE WITH OTHERS."

